

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 25539 161126Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----106032 161133Z /14

P R 161115Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6151
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T PARIS 25539

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, MILL, MOPS, LE, IS, SY, KU
SUBJ: FRENCH ON LEBANON

REFS: A. KUWAIT 4558. B. PARIS 25126. C. PARIS 25220.
D. STATE 202055/1. E. STATE 204806.

1. REF A CONFIRMS US IN OUR EARLIER CONCLUSION THAT
DE LABOULAYE'S REPORT OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH DAS
DRAPER (REF D) WAS AT LEAST INCOMPLETE, AND POSSIBLY
ALSO MISLEADING. AS INDICATED IN REF B, DE LABOULAYE
DID NOT REPORT DRAPER'S SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT THE

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FRENCH APPROACH THE MARONITE LEADERSHIP IN BEIRUT,
AND THE FRENCH ONLY UNDERTOOK SUCH A DEMARCHE
(REF C) WHEN WE CORRECTED THE REPORT THE QUAI HAD
RECEIVED.

2. IN ADDITION, DURING OUR MEETING WITH QUAI OFFICIAL
DALLANT ON AUGUST 10, SHE TOLD US THAT, BASED ON

DE LABOULAYE'S REPORT OF HIS MEETING WITH DRAPER, THE QUAI HAD ASSUMED THAT THE LEBANON INITIATIVE BEING CONSIDERED BY WASHINGTON WAS A TOUR BY AMBASSADOR ATHERTON TO ALL CAPITALS INVOLVED IN ADF, INCLUDING JIDDA AND KUWAIT. THE FRENCH HAD AT THAT POINT NOTED THAT ATHERTON WAS EN ROUTE TO JIDDA, AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT HIS TRAVEL WAS ACTUALLY THE BEGINNING OF SUCH A TOUR. WE TOLD THE FRENCH HERE THAT, AS FAR AS WE KNEW, AN ATHERTON TOUR OF THIS KIND WAS NOT REPEAT NOT ENVISAGED AT THAT TIME, AND THAT THE JIDDA (AND AMMAN) VISITS WERE BASICALLY FOLLOWING UP ON THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN CAIRO AND TEL AVIV. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ATHERTON WOULD PROBABLY TOUCH ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEBANON INITIATIVE WHILE HE WAS IN JIDDA.

3. WE NOTE THAT FRENCH HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED (REF E) OF THE FACT THAT A HOLD HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEBANON INITIATIVE, BUT WE BELIEVE THE APPARENT FRENCH MISINTERPRETATION OF OUR INTENTIONS DURING THIS EPISODE DEMONSTRATES THE NEED TO KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR PARIS, AND PREFERABLY IN BOTH PLACES TO ENSURE THEY GET IT STRAIGHT. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE QUAI ON LEBANON ARE NOT AS CLOSE AS WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE, AND OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 10 WAS THE ONLY
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RECENT DISCUSSION WE HAVE HAD.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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